

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

1 to 8 (Cancelled).

9. (Currently amended) A method for repairing a nuclear fuel assembly, comprising:
providing a repair sleeve, the repair sleeve having a shaft with a first end, a second end and a diameter, the diameter configured to fit into a guide thimble opening of a top nozzle of the fuel assembly, wherein the diameter of the shaft is dimensioned such that an exterior of the shaft fits into the guide thimble opening, wherein the shaft has at least two openings, and at least two tendons extending through the openings each opening having a first end and a second end and a tendon connecting the first end and the second end of the opening, thereby bridging the first and second ends of the opening, and dividing the opening into two portions, the tendons configured to deflect in an instance of a horizontal load on the tendon during insertion, each of the tendons having at least one projection configured to be inserted into a dimple of a guide thimble sleeve, and the repair sleeve having a lapped edge for installation on the top of the top nozzle of the nuclear fuel assembly; and

inserting the repair sleeve in the guide thimble opening in the top nozzle of the nuclear fuel assembly such that the projections of the tendons project into the dimples of the guide thimble sleeve; and

inserting a thimble insert assembly into an interior of the repair sleeve.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 9, wherein the step of inserting the thimble insert assembly into the interior of the repair sleeve prevents further deflection of the repair sleeve in a horizontal direction.

11. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the shaft has two openings and two tendons extending through the openings, each of the tendons having one projection.

12. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the shaft has two openings and two tendons extending through the openings, each of the tendons having one projection.

13. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the at least one projection is configured in a trapezoidal shape or a hemispherical shape.

14. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein the at least one projection is configured in a trapezoidal shape.

15. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein the at least one projection is configured in a hemispherical shape.

16. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the at least one projection is configured in a trapezoidal shape or a hemispherical shape.

17. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein the at least one projection is configured in a trapezoidal shape.

18. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein the at least one projection is configured in a hemispherical shape.

19. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the projection is configured in a trapezoidal shape or a hemispherical shape.

20. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein the at least one projection is configured in a trapezoidal shape.

21. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein the at least one projection is configured in a hemispherical shape.